FALSE SPIREA CARE

LIGHT

False spirea (Sorbaria sorbifolia), also called ash leaf spirea, grows in full sun to light shade. Give it space away from small, delicate plants. Matcha Ball is compact, while Cherry On Top makes a larger shrub; follow the label for spacing.

WATER

Keep the soil moderately moist, especially during the first growing season. Water slowly enough to wet the root ball and surrounding soil. Check more often during hot, dry weather and in containers. Avoid letting a newly planted root ball repeatedly dry out.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant in organically rich, well-drained soil at its original nursery depth. Add a light mulch layer over the root zone, leaving the stem bases exposed. Plan access around the shrub so unwanted root shoots can be found and removed easily.

FEEDING

Do not push vigorous plants with heavy fertilizer. If feeding is needed, use a balanced shrub fertilizer in spring according to the label. Check moisture and soil conditions before assuming that pale or weak growth means the plant needs more nutrients.

SEASONAL CARE

For Matcha Ball and Cherry On Top, do necessary shaping in spring before vigorous growth. Thin damaged or crowded stems selectively; annual hard cutting is not essential. Matcha Ball flowers sparsely. Leave Cherry On Top's spent flowers if you want its colorful seed pods.

HELPFUL TIPS

Check for spreading root suckers and remove unwanted shoots promptly. Compact size does not eliminate the need to watch the planting's edges. Mr. Mustard is excluded from this guide because its breeder recommends pruning after flowering; keep that cultivar's pruning instructions separate.